


CONTACT

OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

APRIL 1968

APRIL 21, 1968

FOREIGN MISSIONS SUNDAY



Discovering the Rich Life
An Exciting Era for Missions Involvement
Unchanging Truths for A Changing World

GIVE THEM AT LEAST ONE CHANGE

FOREIGN MISSIONS SUNDAY

APRIL 21



A MISSIONS MESSAGE BY EVERY PASTOR



A CHALLENGE TO OUR YOUTH TO COMMIT THEIR LIVES TO CHRIST



AN OFFERING FOR MISSIONS FROM EVERY CHURCH

Mail your
offering to

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
P. O. BOX 1088
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37202

personally...

STEWARDSHIP AND SOULS

OUR SUPREME MISSION is winning souls. The motivation to fulfill this mission is stimulated by a sense of stewardship. Paul's correspondence to the church in Corinth reveals this pioneer missionary was gripped with a consciousness that a dispensation or "stewardship" of the gospel was committed to him (I Cor. 9:17). In verses 19 and 22 of the same chapter, he further states his mission was saving souls. Stewardship and soul winning are vital links in world evangelism.

It is evident that Christians assisted financially in Paul's soul winning ministry. In Phil. 4:15-19, he expressed appreciation for their missionary offerings, yet there is an inference in Phil. 4:10 that this support had not been consistent. Why the church had been hindered in contributing to his needs is not known. What we do know is that this church revived its interest and care for the missionary.

In the face of the Foreign Missions Board having to hold the line for more than a year, it appears that many of our churches need a similar revival of missionary support. The reasons and explanations for the present policy have not solved the problem. In fact, the answer is not to be found with the Board or the missionary.

There is only one logical answer for insufficient missionary support. We, the people, have neglected our missionary stewardship obligations. Our entire denomination stands indicted. We have placed undue financial stress on the missionary. We have hindered the progress that might have been attained by more adequate funds. In a sense we cause embarrassment to the Board and the staff because of deficit accounts.

A storm of criticism rages over a "no-win" political policy in Vietnam. I want to raise my voice to protest a "no-win" missionary policy being dictated by materialistic minded Christians. We are so absorbed in accumulating things that we have neglected adequate financial support for our missionaries. The war against pagan forces cannot be won in this manner. Alibis do not justify or excuse our small percentage of giving in an era of economic growth. Smaller groups and cults put us to shame.

Our Foreign Missions Board and missionaries are seeking to effect a new financial plan. We wait with anticipation for the new procedure to be presented. The Board is worthy of our complete confidence to recommend a more feasible plan. In the meanwhile the pressing need is a greater stress on missionary stewardship.

Proper motivation is the secret of greater giving. A few give when they see pictures of naked, hungry, crying children. Others respond when missionaries describe the plight of heathen living in ignorance and superstition. A memorial gift to perpetuate a memory occasionally moves some to share. Many contribute because of denominational loyalty or a desire for recognition by reaching a quota. A stirring appeal, an illustration or a promotional gimmick may prompt others to give spasmodically.

The solution to sustained missionary support is a conviction of our missionary stewardship. Real giving is not dependent upon some emotional appeal. It is not based on personality attraction. It is not affected by a change of pastors. It is not contingent upon personal contact, correspondence or current information. It comes from a life that is not only conscious of missionary stewardship, but is faithfully fulfilling this responsibility.

The appeal to advance by our Foreign Missions director demands action. This will become a reality when a revival of missionary stewardship takes place in our hearts and churches. It will result in more souls having at least one chance.



Congressman Richard Fulton (l.), Nashville, Tenn., invited Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey to his newly decorated office on Capitol Hill during a recent seminar sponsored by the National Association of Evangelicals in Washington.

Rufus Coffey

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CONTACT

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AN EXCITING ERA FOR MISSIONS INVOLVEMENT

by J. Reford Wilson

AND THEY REMEMBERED His words. . . .” In Galilee, after Peter’s confession, Jesus told the disciples that “He must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed, and be raised again the third day.” *We must not forget*—Christ arose! After His resurrection, on five separate occasions, He commanded His disciples to preach His gospel to all nations. Has it been so long since He spoke that we have forgotten “His words”? I suggest your reading Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8.

This is an exciting day to be personally involved with these commands of Christ. I had no choice of the era of history in which I would live. God has chosen for me my time, my calling and my place of service. It is my privilege to be submissive to His plan for the greatest fulfillment of joy in living.

I would challenge you with the open doors of missionary service. True, there are some doors closed to foreign missions. However, national believers, radio broadcasts and Christian literature are going beyond these doors. This is God’s universe and who can keep God out. Dr. Clyde Taylor says, “We must not confuse unrest, violence and revolution with lack of opportunity.” Our requests for visas for sending missionaries to India have been repeatedly refused, but we are not dismayed. God continues His work in India through those who have been saved by the labors of Laura Belle Barnard, Volena Wilson, the Dan Cronks, the Paul Woolseys and the Carlisle Hannas.

The Church has not been promised

the protection or provision by rulers. But believers have been promised the presence and power of Christ and the Holy Spirit. What more do we need? On the island of Cuba, Reverend and Mrs. Thomas H. Willey, Sr., and co-workers planted, faithful Cuban pastors have watered and God has given the increase. Some are scattered, some are in prison, others have died, but our Free Will Baptist witness for Christ has not been destroyed.

Our affluent United States has been shaken by international issues threatening our comforts and conveniences. A confusion of faces is evident by the lack of ability of political leaders to find a way out of our dilemmas. A corrupt religious condition is apparent by the unscriptural standards and methods proposed for solving moral issues. A creeping paralysis of indifference and materialism is crippling the church in its thrust of missionary advance. I suggest three things to do now! Cry aloud for God to give us leaders who can deliver us from the hands of the enemy. Cry aloud in confessing our national sins as Daniel did when Darius was king (Daniel 9:4-6). Cry aloud for a vision of the holy God on His throne and a vision of the dying millions who do not know Jesus Christ.

Thousands without Christ? Yes, I saw them in Tokyo pressing shoulder to shoulder as they rode the trains. I saw them sleeping in their rags on the streets of Calcutta. I saw the colony of thousands living in their boats in the Hong Kong harbor. Thousands of others who had fled from Communist China had hastily erected shanties on the hill-

(Continued on page 17)



religious news

Missionaries Die

VIETNAM—Their guns belching hot lead, waves of Viet Cong soldiers overran the Vietnam mission station at Ban Me Thuot, killing five missionaries and wounding a sixth who died in a hospital later. The brutal invasion which destroyed the Christian and Missionary Alliance station in the central highlands 160 miles north of Saigon occurred either January 30 or 31, according to William Kerr, C&MA Acting Area Secretary for Southeast Asia.

Georgia Senate Passes Bill

ATLANTA (EP)—The Georgia Senate has passed a bill requiring most businesses in the state to observe a "common day of rest" on Sundays. The bill lists more than 30 specific exemptions, but 12 of the 48 senators voted against the measure, objecting both to its effect on the state's industries and arguing that the state has no right to prohibit work on Sunday.

Concept of Comity Repudiated

DENVER, COLO. (MNS)—"World conditions have changed so much in recent years that The Methodist Church no longer will be bound by traditional agreements among denominations to divide various sections of the world among separate denominational missionary efforts," declared an official news release issued January 13 by the Methodist Board of Missions gathered here for its annual meeting.

"Acceptance of the new policy of ecumenical mission by the World Division of Methodism's Board of Missions was put into effect here today with the approval of funds for two mission projects in the Middle East—\$100,000 for the World Council of Churches' Near East Emergency Appeal, and of \$100,000 for future projects in Oceania." The denomination has had no mission work

in those areas before, according to the release.

It was indicated that the Methodist Board will do "its future planning on an ecumenical basis in cooperation with other denominations" and that by adopting this policy "the World Division also recognized that it was placing itself open to requests for mission help in all parts of the world."

McQuilkin Named CBC Prexy

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA (EP)—The son of the first president of Columbia Bible College here has been named at 40 as the third president, succeeding G. Allen Fleece who resigned in May, 1966. McQuilkin is a missionary to Japan serving under The Evangelical Alliance Mission. He was graduated from Columbia in 1947 and has served both on the faculty there and as headmaster of the college's subsidiary, Ben Lippen School of Asheville, N.C. The School, founded in 1923, has a single major in Biblical Education. A graduate school for training missionary candidates is maintained on the new multi-million dollar campus in suburban Columbia. Present enrollment is 471, including 77 university graduates in the graduate division. More than 1000 alumni now serve missions abroad.

Alarmed Over Property Rights

ATLANTA (EP)—Denominational heads of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. were alarmed following a ruling by the Georgia Supreme Court which upheld the property rights of two churches which seceded from the parent body. "This is a real shock," exclaimed Dr. Marshall C. Dendy of Richmond, Va., head of the Parent church. "I hope the ruling will be appealed."

It handed church property rights to two Savannah churches whose congregations withdrew from the main church in April,

1966. Statements adopted by the church's General Assembly on the Vietnam war and civil rights, among other things, violated church doctrine, the congregation contended. Attorney Cheatham of Savannah, representing the parent church, gave this judgment: "The decision pertains to every connectional Protestant church. What it does is allow a jury to decide whether a church has deviated from its doctrine." The two churches seceding, according to an AP wire story, are Hull Presbyterian and Eastern Heights Presbyterian. They asked that the parent body be denied the right to interfere in their affairs. Said the Rev. Todd W. Allen, pastor of Hull: "The decision is a Magna Carta from church property rights and guarantees that church congregations own their own property."

MBI Introduces New Major

CHICAGO (EP)—Next fall, Moody Bible Institute students may enroll for the school's new Communications major, built around a fourfold program of audio-visual techniques, oral communication, Christian journalism and radio.

"While MBI students have always been vitally involved in the art of Christian communications," says Moody Monthly Assistant Editor, Bob Flood in a memo, "Christian leaders during the past decade have been particularly disturbed by the small number of Christians trained in journalism and radio. MBI now steps in to help fill this vacuum."

He saw the program as being unique among Christian schools. Most striking is the impressive training laboratory which students in this program will have at their disposal. It includes a radio network, an audiovisual center, an established world-wide missionary literature outreach, a magazine reaching into more than 100,000 homes, a growing book publishing concern producing more than 10 million books yearly.

IT ALL STARTED WITH a telephone call late one night. As Campaign Director of the Development Program of Free Will Baptist Bible College, I was concluding some promotional work in Florida and would be returning to Nashville the following morning. I had invited Mance Cason, Promotional Secretary of Georgia, to share breakfast with me at a restaurant on Interstate 75 a few miles from his home in Moultrie and on the main route from central Florida to Nashville.

"My idea is to set up promotional rallies in every association possible across our denomination," I told him. "In many cases it would be helpful to plan the meetings following a dinner. The atmosphere would thus be congenial and conducive for frank discussions on financing our Bible College's Development Program. In this way we can make the most contacts with the least amount of time and expense involved. Actually, in the College Development Program only the money that is ultimately spent on new buildings will benefit our denomination. It is very expensive and time consuming for me to go to every church individually," I maintained.

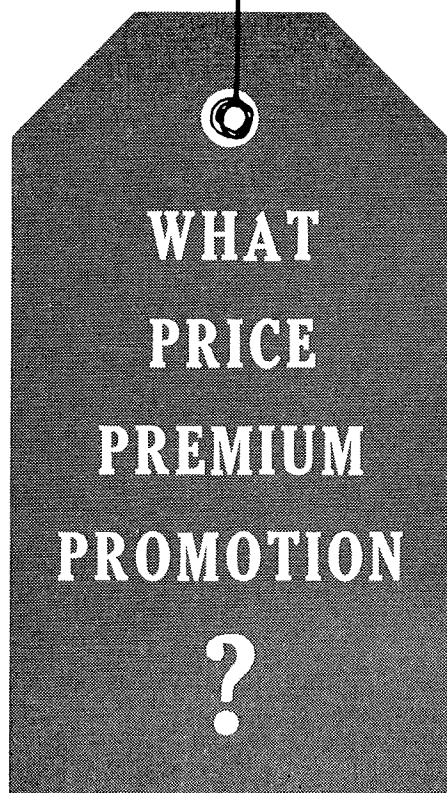
"I see, and you can count on me to do all I can to make such an endeavor as successful as possible," Mr. Cason responded.

Thus the conversation went and the initial step was taken in what eventually proved to be a rewarding and encouraging tour of eight Georgia Associations. A plan was born in the mind of Georgia's promotional secretary.

Preparation Is Made

His first move was to talk the matter over with a number of pastors, realizing these men to be the key in any promotional endeavor involving our churches. In the discussion it was decided to set the date for the tour so as to involve the most pastors possible. The date was so arranged as to include two regular district meetings, which were placed on the itinerary. Mr. Cason and I maintained constant contact throughout the planning stages, exchanging ideas, and drawing upon the experience of each.

With the date firmly established, a contact man in each association, who promised to assist the state's promotional secretary in any way possible, was secured. His main responsibility was to work out details for the meeting including place, time, and accommodations for the meal. Constant contact was maintained between these two men as plans



by Jack Paramore

fell into place and the meeting drew near. Those assisting Mr. Cason in setting up associational rallies were: Rev. Hoyt Findley, Georgia Union Ass'n; Rev. William Travis, Chattahoochee Ass'n; Rev. Vernon Maggart, Liberty Ass'n; Rev. Theron W. Long, South Georgia Ass'n; Rev. C. R. Houston, Midway Ass'n; Mr. Frank Newberry, Martin Ass'n; Rev. Damon C. Dodd, Little River Ass'n; and Rev. W. G. Turner, Union Ass'n.

Thus initial plans were made and final preparations were no less intensive.

After having announced the itinerary in various publications, the promotional secretary repeatedly reminded the Georgia constituency as he worked his state. Eventually, letters were sent to pastors from both his office and the Office of Development at Free Will Baptist Bible College urging their attendance and informing them of the date, time, and place. News releases were sent to

churches for announcements in church bulletins, mid-week reminders, etc. Immediately preceding the rally, phone calls were made to associational leaders working out last-minute details and checking on accommodations. Thus problems were averted and interest was brought to a keen point.

Successful Itinerary

January 12 was launch day for the tour which commenced in Macon. Inclement weather hindered the first meetings, but conditions rapidly improved on the days following. The schedule included rallies involving eight associations. Accompanied by Georgia's promotional secretary throughout the itinerary, I visited two district meetings (Georgia Union District Meeting and Little River District Meeting). In addition, three "extra" meetings were included. A joint board meeting involving all state boards was scheduled during the tour. This furnished me an opportunity to confront thirty to forty state leaders with the program I represented. Following a Wednesday evening service, a ministerial meeting was planned, affording me another opportunity to meet with several pastors. Though Wednesday night was unsuitable for an area rally, a cottage prayer meeting was attended. The program was presented and resulted in a \$1,000 commitment from the sponsoring church.

In summary, recapping the promotional tour, the results are somewhat astounding. Eight associations were touched, more than one half the state's pastors, and two-thirds of their lay-leadership challenged. Immediate results showed more than \$900 given in cash, \$12,600 committed, and nearly as much tentatively committed pending official church action. Plans are to climax the campaign at the state meeting in November. Both my office and Mr. Cason's are now engaged in follow-up work challenging churches to join other committed churches in raising a substantial state gift. The unofficial goal is \$50,000, approximately \$33,000 of which has been given or committed by individuals and churches. If this unofficial goal is reached in the near future, Georgia will rank near the top in state giving to the Bible College Development Drive.

Will your state follow their example? I challenge promotional men and pastors of other states to attempt to match the blistering pace being set in Georgia. With support such as this, the Bible College will undoubtedly continue to grow. Will your state have a share in the credit?



IRVIN HYMAN believes our missions outreach should be thoroughly grounded in the basic truths of God's Word. With special emphasis this month on the resurrection, the author discusses . . .

UNCHANGING *Truths* *For A* CHANGING *World*

They are the imperial foundation of God's government. On them is builded the metropolis of His empire. Upon these pillars stands Christianity's palatial home with its towering spires, golden domes, flashing radiance, unchanging power surrounded by the battlemented walls of God's everlasting omnipotence.

Revelation—God's Program

In various ways the living God has revealed Himself to the human race.

First, He has revealed Himself through *nature*. The infallible word of God says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handy work." This universe is God's museum holding the unanswerable arguments that He is the One, true and living God. Stand for a moment in the amphitheatre of wondrous nature. Behold the towering mountains with their sun-painted cliffs piling their huge massive heights heavenward. View the ascending hills, floral cascades, and enrapturing landscapes bathed in their beauty and vocal with their anthems of music. Face the sunrise as it splendors nature everywhere with its golden rays and causes laughter in the heart of humanity. Look at the rainbow painted by the fingers of God. Stand awed, amazed, speechless midst sunset radiances as the echo of the orchestra of day willows and softens into

the hush of God's stillness as He wraps the earth in the mantle of night and hangs out the moon and stars to stand guard. The whole realm of nature with its celestial glories becomes the voice of the living God to man.

A young man applied for church membership soon after graduating from a university. "How did your university career affect your faith in the Lord?" asked the preacher. "I am stronger in faith now than when I entered the university," he replied. "How is that?" inquired the preacher. The young man replied, "Mountains!" "Mountains! What mountains?" came the question. "I have spent some part of each year in the great mountains. No one can see sunrise from as many mountains as I have without having his faith in God deepened."

Secondly, God reveals Himself through the *Bible*. As we read the inspired Word of God, we not only see God's majesty, hear God's voice, but we also feel His power and are deeply moved by His great love. In the Bible, creation takes on meaning, man takes on significance, eternity takes on imperious moment; Jerusalem, Sinai, the Red Sea, Jordan, Jericho, Canaan take on historic significance of eternal consequence. In God's Book, His earnest desire to make Himself known to the human race becomes irrefutable. The Holy Bible re-

SIN makes prisoners; truth sets men free. Sin kills; Jesus Christ gives life. Falsehood brings death; truth means resurrection.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

It is not my purpose to seek to analyze the great facts of this passage of Scripture. I use it as a basis for three great Christian verities, essential in doctrine and indispensable in truth. They are, first, Revelation—God's plan; second, Salvation—God's purpose; third, Resurrection—God's proof. Apart from these truths we have no basis on which to stand, no ground for redemption, no hope to sustain us, no strength to uphold us. Fundamentalists stand on these unchanging truths of God as the mighty building rests on the impregnable granite.

veals that this omnipotent God spoke through prophets, led in definite ways as He spoke to Moses through the burning bush, sent the ten plagues upon Egypt, opened the Red Sea, rained manna from heaven, divided Jordan's waters and made Himself known in a thousand ways.

This inerrant Book "contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of life, the doom of sinners, the happiness of believers. Read it to be wise. Believe it to be safe. Practice it to be holy. It gives light to direct you, food to support you, comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the soldier's sword, the Christian's chart. Jesus Christ is its theme, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet."

Thirdly, God has revealed Himself through *Jesus Christ*. The Bible declares, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son." Again the Word of God says, "In due season He sent His own Son." The Bible proclaims, "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because He sent His only begotten Son into the world." What a day when God sent Jesus, the Christ! Munsey puts it this way: "Jewish altars gave way for the cross . . . bleeding types . . . gave place to the Lamb of God . . . The fires of Sinai were extinguished with the blood of Calvary."

Yes, the eternal God decided to take a journey to this sin benighted world. Looking down over the battlements of heaven He saw this planet swinging in space—doomed, damned, crushed, and bound for hell-fire. He saw you and me struggling beneath our load of sin and bound in the chains and ropes of sin. He made His choice in the council halls of God. The angelic hosts bowed in humility and awe as the heaven's Prince of Princes and Lord of Lords, who spoke the worlds into existence, got into His jeweled chariot, went through pearly gates, across the steep of the skies, and on a black Judean night, while the stars sang together and the escorting angels chanted His praises, stepped out of His chariot, threw off His robes, and became man. The Bible says, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." And while on this earth He declared that the Father loves us; that the Father knows the things we have need of before we ask Him; that He will withhold no good thing from His children; and that all may become His children through faith in Him.

Redemption—God's Purpose

God's one powerful motivating pur-

pose is the salvation of the lost.

First, this is the *clear teaching of the Word of God*. Jesus declared, "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." "God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved."

The Bible teaches that Jesus moved supremely, gloriously, and with great anticipation toward the mission that He had come to accomplish. He came to appease the wrath of God. He came to buy men from the slave market of the devil. He came to defeat the devil forever. He came to conquer hell and the grave. He came to save sinful man. He came to change lives—completely, radically, fully.

An atheist sought to make light of and embarrass an unlettered man who had been a Christian for only a few years. "Do you know anything about Jesus Christ?" asked the atheist. "Yes, by the grace of God I do," he replied. "Where was he born?" was asked. The ignorant saint gave an incorrect answer. "How old was he when he died?" The man did not know. "See, you don't know so much about Jesus as you thought, do you?" "I know all too little," was his modest reply, "but I know this: three years ago my wife was a broken hearted woman, and my children were as afraid of me as if I had been a wild beast. Today I have one of the happiest homes in London, and when I come home at the close of the day my wife and children are glad to see me. Jesus has done this for me. This I know."

Secondly, God's purpose is redemption because *men are helpless without a Saviour*. They are lost—without God, without Christ, and without hope. Salvation is the summit of God's interest in men. We do not merit salvation, God bestows it. He removes the guilt of sin, comforts sad hearts, gives treasures for tears, strength for weakness, freedom from slavery.

The Word of God declares, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." Again God says, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers: But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

What can wash away my sin?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus;

What can make me whole again?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

"Old Born Drunk," in Bigbie's *Twice*

Born Men, was the child of frightfully drunken parents, had been born in drink, and was almost certainly as his name declared, actually born drunk. Those who knew him doubted that he could ever be different. But one day he looked into the face of Joe, who had been almost as low as himself, but who had been gloriously saved and transformed. And upon hearing Joe's testimony, Old Born Drunk at once began to dream that there was hope for himself. "I want to be like Joe!" he said to the Salvation Army woman. At that hour Old Born Drunk experienced the new birth. His life was changed and all his sins washed away in the blood of God's only begotten Son.

The Resurrection—God's Evidence

Had Jesus not risen from Joseph's tomb, Christianity would have been rendered powerless. His failure to rise from the dead would have been the most colossal disappointment the world could ever have experienced. Had Christ not risen from the grave, the dark shadow would have deepened into midnight darkness. Perilous panic would have paralyzed man's faith and would have thrown the pall of doom across the earth. There is no doubt about it, all ages from then on would have been as "Dark Ages."

First, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a *proof of God's power*. Had He not risen from the dead, His life and works would have become stumblingblocks instead of a highway to God. Had Jesus Christ not risen from the grave, the spirit of despair rather than the spirit of deliverance would have been regnant.

You see, the resurrection of Christ distinguishes Christianity from other religions. His resurrection is the hallmark of Christianity. No other religion has a living leader. Consequently, those who follow other religions worship at the shrine of dead leaders. They glory in the tombs in which the dust of their leaders smoulder. The glory of the Christian is in the open tomb. The Bible says, "He is not here: for He is risen."

When thrones crumble, dynasties pass away, and nature grows palsied, the certainty of immortality as proved by the resurrection becomes the anchor, the strength and the stay of God's people. The most desolate cry this world has ever heard, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" was changed into the most gladsome shout of triumph the world has ever heard, namely, "I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold I am alive for evermore." The resurrection of God's Son changed gloom into glory,

(Continued on page 17)

glancing around the states



Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey confers with Senator Mark Hatfield, former governor of Oregon at NAE's seminar for pastors and laymen in Washington.

Correction, Please

NASHVILLE, TENN.—In the January news article entitled, "NAE Drafts Multiple Membership Plan," the last word "denomination" is evidently a misquote, as reported by the Evangelical Press.

The NAE Board of Administration, in its meeting October 9, 1967, adopted the following by-law: Dual Membership. While denomination shall not hold dual membership in the National Association of Evangelicals and any other organization at a comparable ecclesiastical level, such as the National Council of Churches of Christ in America, The World Council of Churches, The American Council of Christian Churches; local churches and organizations whose denominations belong to other such bodies, but who desire membership in the National Association of Evangelicals may be received, provided they fulfill the membership requirements.

Johnson Elected To Post

BAGDAD, KY.—Sixteen Free Will Baptist camp leaders were present for the Southern Regional Christian Camp and Conference Association, International Convention which met last month here at the Cedarmore Baptist Assembly. Free Will Baptist leaders represented camping in six states.

Attending were: Willie Justice, Alabama; A. J. Lambert, Alabama; H. Ray

Berry and Bill Van Winkle, Arkansas; Mance Cason and Charles Hollingshead, Georgia; William Travis, Georgia; Eugene Hales, North Carolina; Jean A. Dingey and Darlene Evilsizor, Ohio; and Harvey Hill, Blaine Hughes, Samuel Johnson, Ron Neibrugge, and Ray Turnage, Tennessee.

The new chairman of the Southern Regional for the next two years is Samuel Johnson, General Director of the National Church Training Service Department. The Southern Regional will be host to the International Convention which meets March 10-14, 1969 at Ridgecrest, North Carolina. Those interested in Christian camping should make plans to attend this outstanding convention.

New Church Organized

GLADSDEN, ALA.—The Liberty No. 2 Association in Alabama has organized a new church here at 1002 Aubon Avenue with Rev. Odell Parrish as pastor. Other officers are Ottis Wycuff, Sunday school superintendent, Mrs. Jeanette Wycuff, Clerk, and Maurine Parrish, Treasurer. Ottis Wycuff is acting as deacon. The National Sunday School Department made a gift of the first order of literature to the church. There are twenty-two attending Sunday School.

Mooneyham Recovers

NASHVILLE, TENN.—Dr. Stan Mooneyham has written the National Office to express appreciation for all the

communications and prayers during his recent surgery. After being detained in the hospital in Honolulu, he continued his trip to Singapore by way of Tokyo and Hong Kong. Mr. Mooneyham and his family are living in Singapore.

Ground Breaking Services

BESSEMER CITY, N. C.—Members and friends of the Bessemer City Free Will Baptist Church here held a ground breaking ceremony recently on Edgewood Road.

In January of this year the members voted to hold a bond program of \$25,000 to finance the construction of the first unit. The services of Rev. Francis Boyle, Director of Executive Church Bonds, were secured to direct the program.

The kick-off dinner meeting was held at Piedmont Bible Institute in Cramerton. Rev. D. L. Whaley, pastor of the church, said, "The Lord has wonderfully blessed the church and its workers."

Hatfield Addresses Church Leaders

WASHINGTON, D. C.—"We have not been called to Christianize politics, but to proclaim Christ to men," former Oregon Governor Mark Hatfield told a group of pastors and laymen at a recent seminar on "Christian Responsibility in Public Affairs," in our nation's capitol. The seminar was sponsored by the National Association of Evangelicals in cooperation with their Churchmen's Commission.

Elected to the U. S. Senate in 1966, the young statesman and outspoken Christian declared, "We must not duplicate other institutions, but we must be involved in exerting our Christian influence on them. If the church does not perform its spiritual mission, no other institution will," he added.

Pastors and laymen from several evangelical denominations were present for the seminar. Free Will Baptists were represented by Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey, Laymen's secretary, Herbert Peppers, and NAE's Churchmen's Commission chairman, Robert C. Hill.

The three-day seminar featured several government leaders and included interviews at the U. S. State Department, the FBI and the Supreme Court. Participants also witnessed the opening of Congress and private interviews with their Senators and Congressmen.

Haas Family Moves

NASHVILLE, TENN.—The Joe Haas family moved to Muskegon, Michigan,

where Mrs. Haas is taking a special course in Child Evangelism. This course will increase the effectiveness of the missionary witness. The Haases plan to leave for language study in France after the National Association in July.

Sunday School Curriculum Change

NASHVILLE, TENN.—A completely new Sunday School Curriculum for the Intermediate through the Adult level has been announced by Roger Reeds, Director of the National Sunday School Department. This curriculum, which will be introduced the first quarter of 1969, is the culmination of several years of preparation.

Previous lesson outlines were not only developed and controlled by the National Council of Churches, but we also had to pay a royalty to use them. The fragmentary lesson outlines often omitted important passages of Scripture that are very meaningful to evangelicals.

The new Free Will Baptist Curriculum will begin with the Book of Genesis and alternate back and forth from the Old Testament to the New Testament. This book by book study, interspersed by topical studies, will attempt to give a more thorough coverage of the Bible in a seven year cycle.

Commission Completes Papers

NASHVILLE, TENN.—The Commission on Theological Liberalism has prepared two papers for publication and distribution. Chairman Wade Jernigan in making this announcement lists the topics as "Ecumenism and Its Growth," by Dr. J. D. O'Donnell, President of Oklahoma Bible College, and "Issues Among Evangelicals," by Leroy Forlines, Professor at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

The purpose of this Commission, Mr. Jernigan states, is "to keep our denomina-

tion abreast of certain liberal trends in theology." He further emphasizes, "It is the feeling of the Commission that these two papers are very vital to our denominational welfare."

No funds are available for printing and circulating this material. The National Association left the responsibility of raising the necessary funds with the Commission. A letter has been sent to each pastor, appealing for an offering to finance this project. The money should be sent to Dr. J. D. O'Donnell, P. O. Box 343, Moore, Oklahoma 73060.

Accepts New Work

MONTGOMERY, ALA.—Rev. Paul Weaver from Ashland City, Tennessee, has recently moved here to accept the pastorate of the First Free Will Baptist Church. Rev. E. B. Ledlow, present pastor of the church, is moving to Decatur, Alabama to start a work under the direction of the State and National Missions Boards.

Alabama Youth Rally

NORTHPORT, ALA.—The Alabama Free Will Baptist State Youth Rally was held here recently with 350 registered. The theme for the rally was "A Charge To Keep." Rev. Milton Worthington, of Tupelo, Mississippi, was the guest speaker. The quartet from Free Will Baptist Bible College was featured on the program.

Progress Reported

TUSCALOOSA, ALA.—The East Side Free Will Baptist Church here had its beginning in a chapel left by the Army. When the church was organized in May of 1964 there were 32 charter members.

The congregation now has a sanctuary that seats 300 and an educational section with 8 classrooms. It is centrally heated and air conditioned. A full basement

Rev. John Lindsley is shown with the congregation of the newly built Hendersonville Free Will Baptist Church. Mr. Lindsley previously pastored in Portland, Tennessee.



readers respond

Dear Sir:

Would you please print that I am available for full-time pastoral work? I have pastored in Virginia and North Carolina for seven years. Any church interested can contact me by writing to me at Rt. 1, Box 261, Ft. Blackmore, Virginia 24250.

Sincerely,
Rev. Paul Butler

Dear Sir:

I want to take just a moment to tell you how much I have enjoyed the CONTACT this past year. The articles have been outstanding. Enclosed is my subscription for another year.

Sincerely,
Maggie B. Gallahar
Booneville, Mississippi

Dear Editor:

I really appreciated and thoroughly enjoyed George C. Lee's article, "Ordinances of the Church—Feet Washing". It is great. It would be interesting to have a series of articles on the same subject by other great Free Will Baptist preachers. Will you please mail CONTACT with this article in it to the following thirty-four people? I am enclosing a check for these issues.

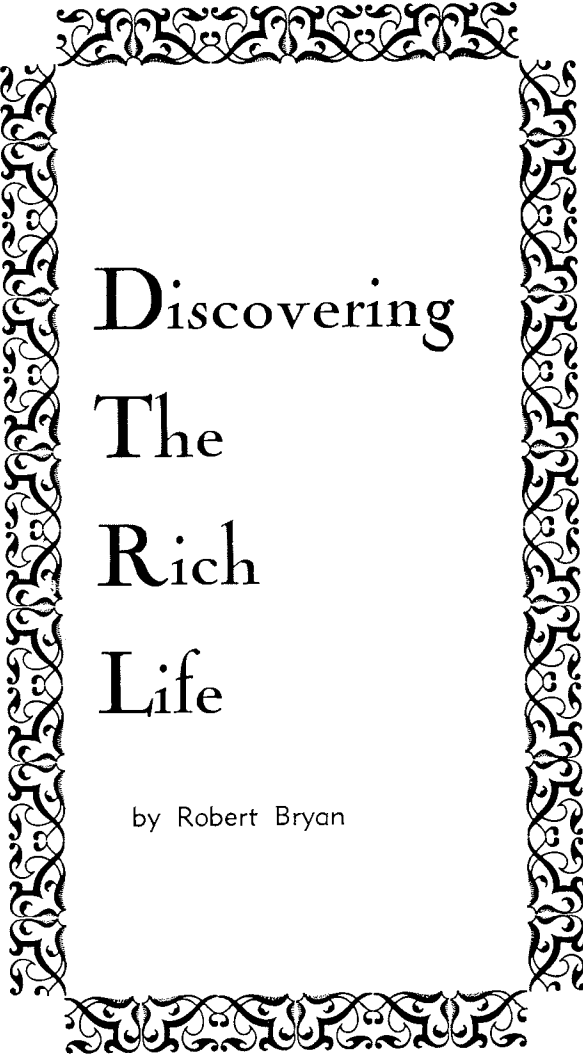
Mrs. Paul Binkley
2852 Clay Street
East Gary, Indiana 46405

houses a kitchen and dining room which property is valued at \$70,000. Rev. C. also serves as a fellowship hall. The Dewey Thomas is pastor.

New Building Completed

HENDERSONVILLE, TENN.—Approximately two years ago a small group of interested Free Will Baptists living in this city made inquiry about beginning a new church. Since this is the fastest growing city in Tennessee, the General Director of Home Missions immediately made a survey. The project was recommended to the Cumberland Association Mission Board.

The work was started under the direction of Rev. John Lindsley. Rev. Homer E. Willis was present recently for a meeting in the white brick colonial church building. The church also has an educational building.



Discovering The Rich Life

by Robert Bryan

SOME Christians live as though John 10:10 is not in the Bible. That's where Christ said, "I am come that they might have life, . . . more abundantly."

This group of believers may act like a package of fire crackers, loudly exploding into religious activity. Or they may resemble the people in Dristan commercials, with watery eyes, stuffed-up head and hardly the energy to open a medicine bottle.

Either way, they've missed the kind of life Christ talked about.

Then there are other believers. They stay active in the church, and problems hit them, too, just like the first group. But they're different. Like a too-full stream, they overflow with joy—even when difficulties come. They enjoy living; life is full.

What are principles Christians can apply to get the most out of life? How can they avoid a pell-mell rush of treadmill activity that leaves them like the Dristan commercial? And how can they learn not to shift their mental transmission into PARK when the minister comes to the platform?

First, control your time.

Don't get too busy. Period. With almost-daily church activities piled on top of family and community duties, a Christian can be so religiously active that he loses his active religion. Jesus taught moderation; too much of anything is harmful, even too much activity in an organized church program. Christ saves sinners to live for *Him*, not for a church program.

Joseph Bayly in *The Gospel Blimp* shows a group of Christians so concerned about a neighbor that they began an evangelistic organization to reach him with the gospel. They spent every spare minute in workshops, board meetings and prayer meetings. Sure enough, the neighbor was saved; but only after one of the Christians took time from the "religious activity" to go fishing with him, help him when his wife was sick, be a friend to him, and then share the gospel with him.

So, control your time.

Every person begins the day with 24 hours. Take out eight hours for sleep and eight more for work; that leaves eight. Three meals, with 30 minutes for

each, leave six and a half hours. Take out another hour and a half to get dressed and travel to and from work. That still leaves each person with five hours for himself. Using these five hours wisely can help Christians find a fuller life.

How to spend time well? First, determine priorities. What is most important? God—family—perhaps school—job—in that order? Then determine to invest your time where it is most important. Perhaps you could begin a neighborhood Bible study group. Or you may want to spend an evening visiting unsaved friends.

But, again, don't get too busy. Leave time to relax, develop a hobby, or have regular outings with the family.

Second, *choose a forte*—something you can do well. Stick to that job, and don't allow yourself to be spread thin. Must the song leader be CTS director, Master's Men president and on the church's official board, all at the same time?

A Virginia church, wanting to start a Boy Scout troop for the herd of young boys that attended, chose for Scoutmaster a member who held no other office in the church. He was free to give himself to the boys, to help them learn Scouting and to help them grow spiritually. He could do his work well; he had no other time consuming jobs in the church.

Second, have a daily quiet time.

Quiet time is a special regular time for reading the Bible and prayer. A booklet on this subject says, "If authority were needed for observing . . . Quiet Time, the writings and example of men of God in all ages would supply it. But the practice of our Master Himself, who, 'rising up a great while before day, went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed,' is sufficient evidence of its supreme importance for us."

J. Hudson Taylor, founder of Overseas Missionary Fellowship (formerly China Inland Mission) practiced a consistent daily prayer time. His son says that while traveling with his father in China he would often be awakened at two o'clock in the morning to see a light on near his father's bed, where he would read the Bible and pray until near day-break.

Why have a quiet time? For one thing,

God desires it. He wants people to worship Him; He invites praise and honor from His children. A daily quiet time helps make a Christian stronger. If, as Paul says, believers face spiritual problems, then they must have spiritual solutions. Spiritual vitality can come through daily prayer and Bible study.

Have a definite schedule for quiet time. And a definite place. You may say, "But I'm too busy to find another thirty minutes every day." Do you plan for three meals a day? Then you can plan for quiet time. Pleading a lack of time is usually merely an excuse for spiritual laziness.

What to do during quiet time? Read the Bible. Not like a sprint runner trying to break a record, but like a miner, working on one lode at a time. Choose a psalm, or a great chapter, or a small book and dive into it, without trying to read a certain amount each day. And think about what you read. How does the lesson apply to you personally?

Vance Havner in *Why Not Just Be Christians* says that God's Word ". . . is wired up from heaven and when we make proper contact we get a shock. But if we stay in contact we get a charge! Too many poor souls make only enough contact to get a shock."

Prayer is also part of quiet time. But instead of praying for only yourself and your family, aim the prayer outward. But how? Someone suggested that this writer remember the letters ACTIS, for adoration, confession, thanksgiving, intercession and supplication. Adoration and thanksgiving because of what God is and has done; confession to cleanse from sin and to make the prayer effective; intercession for others; and finally, supplication for one's own needs.

Thirty minutes is a good amount of time. But if you cannot give that much time at first, start with the time you have. If one has only ten minutes, he can examine one verse thoroughly and pray.

Oh, yes. Don't give up if at first you don't get any highly emotional satisfaction or conscious appreciation for quiet time. Remember, God wants you to worship Him, and He has promised to feed those who hunger for righteousness. So,

give Him the chance.

Finally, don't lose the wonder.

Gypsy Smith, a great evangelist earlier this century, was asked the secret of his freshness and vigor, even into old age. It was because, he said, "I have never lost the wonder."

Christians should live expectantly. Vance Havner says, "We do not look for miracles, and we do not see many. We pray for rain, and do not carry our umbrellas. We ought never to start for a meeting without saying, 'This may be a great night!' We get used to being Christians; we take it for granted, and we lose the wonder."

Believers can practice a conscious dependence on God. One Bible teacher reminded her class, "I pray every morning 'Tear 'em up, Lord.' I mean by that, 'Lord, here are my plans for the day. Please change them if they aren't Your will.' I trust Him to guide me all day."

A believer should trust the Father's promises. He has promised to supply all His children's needs. He has promised never to leave them while they follow Him. His mercy endures for ever, and His kindness has no end.

But notice—most of these promises are given with qualifications. "Go ye, . . . and I am with you. . . ." "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." Paul thanked the Philippian church for sending an offering, and then reminded them that "my God shall supply all your need. . . ." Christians can know God's fullest only by giving themselves unreservedly to Him.

How to discover a rich life? Paul perhaps puts it most clearly: "And so, dear brothers, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living sacrifice. . . . Then you will see from your own experience how His ways will really satisfy you" (Romans 12:1, 2 Living Letters).

Quotations from Vance Havner and Gypsy Smith are taken from Why Not Just Be Christians, by Vance Havner. Westwood, New Jersey, Fleming H. Revell Co., 1964. Quotation about quiet time is from Quiet Time, Chicago, Inter-Varsity Press, 1964. Other quotes, except Biblical, are from author's notes.

The author was graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in May, 1966. He is now studying for his M.A. in religious journalism at Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York. He is a former editorial assistant for Heartbeat.



1

1. Missionaries Larry and Wanda Powell standing by their jeep which is used for many purposes in their work on the Island of St. Croix. Larry is standing at the point of land which is as far east as one can go and be on United States soil.

2. This is the building which is now being used for Free Will Baptist church services at Christiansted in the mornings. Night services are held in the Powells' home.

3. A beautiful valley near Frederickstead and near the inlet where Columbus landed in 1493.

4. The Virgin Islands are served by three air lines and good schedules are available. Pictured is Mrs. Homer E. Willis, wife of the general director, who, with her husband, spent the Christmas holidays with the Powell family.

5. Larry Powell is standing in front of his home. Pictured is the Dodge bus which

2



3



PICTORIAL THE VIRGIN

7



was purchased by the women of Georgia for the work in the West Indies.

6. Mrs. Powell is shown with a group of children who attend a weekly Bible club. Her two sons, Mark and Jon, are pictured to her right. Children attend these Bible classes who have moved to St. Croix from all parts of the Caribbean.

7. Mrs. Powell, Director Willis, and Mr. Powell are shown at an ancient fort. The Virgin Islands have a long and colorful history, having been governed by at least seven nations. The United States bought the islands fifty years ago from Denmark.

8. Pray for Wanda, Larry, Jon and Mark. They are the only Free Will Baptist missionaries in the West Indies. Pray for the Home Missions Department which makes their going possible, and pray that soon others will join them in Puerto Rico and other islands.



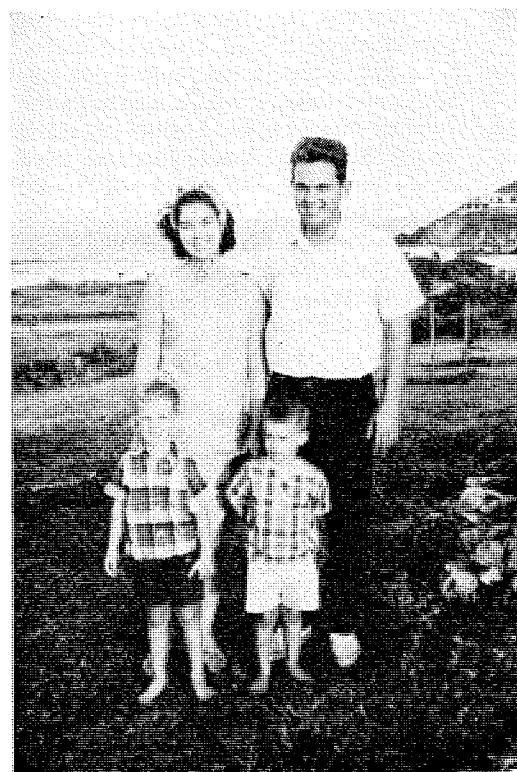
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REVIEW OF ISLANDS

8



5



6

woman to woman



by CLEO PURSELL

STANDING in the center of a secluded cemetery in the city of Hanover is the world-renowned tomb of a young German countess who was buried there many years ago.

The countess died while only thirty years of age. Before her death she left a strange order regarding her burial and a still stranger one regarding her epitaph. Violently disbelieving in a resurrection from the dead, she directed that her tomb should be covered by an immense slab of granite surrounded by square stones fastened securely at each corner with massive iron bands. On the stones the following words were to be inscribed: "This burial place purchased to all eternity must never be opened."

The years passed, and people walking by the grave were startled to note that the great granite slab was slowly being forced open. Then a tender blade of green began to push its way between the heavy stones. Somehow a tiny seed had found its way among the massive rocks. Steadily it grew, its roots forcing the iron bands apart.

With superstitious awe, the citizens of Hanover watched as the growing tree pushed the seemingly impregnable masonry aside, leaving a yawning space beneath, opening into the tomb itself. And there today, unless destroyed by the depredations of war, stands a great tree, its roots reaching down into the grave below, while the granite slab itself leans against the green tree for its support.

How futile is man's puny will when pitted against the mighty power of God! A tiny seed, bearing within its brown covering the irresistible germ of God-given life, brought to nought the defiance of the young countess. This reminds us of the day when the iron casket within this tomb will burst open, and the unbelieving countess herself will come forth to give an account to the Judge of all the earth for the deeds done during her lifetime.

What a comfort to sorrowing hearts, whose loved ones have lost their lives in this terrible war, must be the words

of our Lord, "He that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." (John 11:25).

Showers of Blessing

April means "showers" almost everywhere—soft, soaking showers that bring May flowers. Pictures of umbrellas could be sketched or pasted on postcards and posters to publicize this month's meeting of your women's group. Or you might use flower seals (the inexpensive kind found in any Christian bookstore) to indicate the lovely plants these spring rains nurture. Green and yellow colors of paper, paint, or ink are also good.

Incidentally, because April showers are also wet, be sure postcards are done in waterproof ink to prevent their being smeared in the mailman's bag or mailbox.

- *Table decorations:* Soft green and yellow "ice cream" colors can form your color scheme for this month's meeting or social. And they immediately bring to mind bouquets or bowls of daffodils or jonquils and other flowers whose blooms can easily be forced open for inside loveliness. Blossoming tree branches—real or artificial—make lovely centerpieces for a springtime table. Or with a little patience and imagination, you can produce a miniature Japanese rock garden in a shallow pan or bowl, complete with blossoming trees (small branches), stream water over pebbles or a mirror, banks (moss), and even lily pads, flowers, and birds.

- *Menu for refreshments:* Spring salads can be very exciting—grated carrots with raisins, cole (cabbage) slaw, green and yellow relish plates, lime gelatin with pineapple and cherries, and cottage cheese with chives are just a few possibilities. The softer salads can be scooped with an ice cream scoop and placed on lettuce leaves for added interest. On the sweeter side are green and yellow iced cake squares and lemon and lime pies. Serve with hot tea or coffee, or with lime sherbet and punch.

Pre-Easter Season of Prayer

The pre-Easter season of prayer sponsored annually by the Woman's Auxiliary is scheduled for April 8-12. Mrs. Julia Hill, president of the Wolverine District Auxiliary Convention, Michigan, is the author of the excellent programs entitled *Mary—Her Glorious Commission*. The sacrificial offering for foreign missions is called the *Laura Belle Barnard* offering in honor of our first foreign missionary of modern times. See the second quarter issue of *Co-Laborer* for details.

Children's Easter Gifts

In order to make Easter gifts for grandparents, neighbors and friends, one woman and her toddlers sow flower seeds in plantable pots at the beginning of Lent. The children enjoy tending the seeds and watching them sprout and grow. A few days before Easter they decorate the flowerpots with strips of colored paper stapled around the pots. Then they make Easter Bunny name tags (draw and color a bunny face with the recipient's name printed on the ears and tape it to a pipe cleaner) that they stick in the soil, and their Easter gifts are ready to be delivered. Those who receive the flower gifts can keep them indoors until it is warm enough in the yard to plant, then just remove the decorations and plant the flower in its pot.

Women's Fellowship

Mrs. Jill Renich, author, lecturer, teacher and mother whom God has used especially in ministering to women will speak at the Women's Fellowship (NAE) April 23-25. Place: Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

GEM

Easter Advice: What's in the heart is more important than what's on the head.

An Exciting Era

(Continued from page 5)

sides. Perhaps in Europe as in no other place one is overwhelmed by a "form of religion without power." I saw the massive ornamented cathedrals. Many of them are only monuments of religious history. The worshippers are few, the gospel is not preached and people are not changed. We need to pray for revival fires to burn again in Europe.

Let's face the facts of the commands of Jesus Christ. Did He command the impossible? Certainly not! Did He remove all the barriers and open all doors? Certainly not! Did He prevent opposition and martyrdom? Certainly not! But "believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women" (Acts 5:14).

There was an urgency in their witnessing. They were possessed with a holy excitement to see God at work. Priests of the temple were saved! Gentiles were converted! Important women of Thessalonica became Christians. Pagan literature was burned at Ephesus. The gospel of Jesus Christ was changing people.

This is the purpose of missionaries. The primary task of the missionary is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to change lives. No longer does Antonio burn candles and bow before images of saints. Fujita San does not clap his hands, bow his head and toss his offerings to a deaf, speechless, nonseeing idol of Buddha. An African mother no longer falls prostrate before a mud god to plead for her dying baby. Each has found heavenly hope in Jesus Christ.

How can you share in these exciting adventures in India, Japan, Uruguay, Ecuador, Brazil, Panama, France and Ivory Coast? First, the missionaries need your prayers. Tens of thousands are dying every day without knowing how to be saved. The missionary feels the never-ending pressure of these souls. Satanic powers are not easily broken and the missionary is in constant danger of demon forces. The greatest encouragement a missionary receives is to see people saved when he tells them Jesus saves. Second, the missionaries need your money. They are not beggars. They are not poor. They are not hungry. They are not homeless. But they depend on you to provide essentials for living in a foreign country.

The month of April is designated on our Free Will Baptist calendar for special emphasis on foreign missions. There are several missionaries who need more monthly support. Could you, your Sunday school class, your CTS group or your

Unchanging Truths

(Continued from page 9)

defeat into victory, the curse of death into the course of destiny. Jesus Christ shattered the scepter of death into fragments as He broke its chains into a thousand pieces. He burst death's vaulted chambers, caused inquisitions to rock, foundations to crumble, and heaven to sing.

Secondly, the resurrection is the *heart-throb of fundamental preaching*. The Word of God says, "If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain." Preaching a living Christ, a powerful Christ, a saving Christ is not a gloomy but a glorious mission! We are not to preach as defeatists, but as conquerors.

With this resurrection story, we can tell the Christian mother that she will see again the darling babe she has laid to rest. We can tell mothers who wake at the midnight hour thinking of their Christian sons in Viet Nam that should they fall, they will see them again.

Somewhere on some bright tomorrow,

Down the thorny path of pain,
When we've trod the vale of sorrow,
We shall find our own again.

Thirdly, the resurrection is the *ground of our hope*. The death of Christ plucked away death's sting, and His resurrection threw open the door of the grave forever. Do you seek encouragement for your tasks, comfort in your sorrows and trials, strength for your faith? Praise God, you can find it in Christ's triumph over the tomb in Joseph's garden. You see, we are not to look at the grave, but *beyond* it. The grave does not end in nothingness. Actually, it is the exodus into the larger room of the house of many mansions. It is winter with its withering leaves, awaiting the springtime with its roses. For the child of God, death is the old house fallen down, out of which its tenant has moved till the Great Architect shall rebuild it. Beyond the sunset is the sunrise. Beyond death is life. Beyond the grave is the glory! Hallelujah!

church give more each month to provide for these who represent Christ for you in other lands? Are you so involved in living for self that you have pushed the needs of the world into a small corner of your life? *What* are you living for? *Who* are you living for? You can find a new dimension in your life by a full commitment to the missionary commands of Jesus Christ. The next door neighbor, the man across town, the strange faces in regions beyond are waiting for you to "remember His words—Go ye."

Calendar Of Events

North Carolina State Assn.

May 6-8, Parker's Chapel, Greenville, N.C.

Idaho State Assn.

May 10-11, Buhl, Idaho

North East Assn.

May 10-11, Millville Church, New Brunswick, Canada

New Mexico State Assn.

May 14-15, First Church, Carlsbad, N.M.

Northwest Assn.

May 17-18, Wenatchee, Washington

West Virginia State Meeting

June 7-8, Marrow Bone Church, Kermit, W. Va.

Kansas State Assn.

June 13-15, First Church, Topeka, Kansas

Virginia State Assn.

June 13-15, West Side Church, Kingsport, Tenn.

Michigan State Assn.

June 14-15, First Church, Taylor, Mich.

Indiana State Assn.

June 13-15,

California State Assn.

June 19-21, First Church, Bakersfield, Calif.

Kentucky State Assn.

June 20-22, Sandy City Church, Cattleburg, Kentucky

Maryland State Assn.

June 20, Fairwood Church, Fairfax, Va.

Ohio State Assn.

June 21-22, Woodland Chapel Church, Ironton, O.

Illinois State Assn.

June 28-29, Benton Tabernacle, Benton, Ill.

National Association

July 15-18, Oklahoma City, Okla.

gems

FROM THE
GREEK NEW TESTAMENT

by ROBERT PICIRILLI

Ever once in awhile, we who do not believe in so-called "eternal security" get in "discussions" with those who do. And, invariably, they will come up with the various *promises* that Jesus makes to believers in John's Gospel, such as John 10:28 or 5:24 or even 3:36. They insist that the promises *prove* eternal security.

So let us carefully examine one of these promises to see whether they *do* prove the doctrine of eternal security. John 3:36, for example, says this: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life." And the Calvinist will insist that this proves *eternal* security since Jesus actually says that the believer already *has* everlasting life.

But there is one important thing that this false argument overlooks: the possession of the promises is based on a *condition*. That condition is "believing," and the verb "believing," in the Greek language, is written in the Greek verb tense that refers to *continued* believing. Actually, then, John 3:36 could accurately be translated this way: "He that continues believing on the Son hath everlasting life." And thus the continued possession of eternal life depends on the continuing faith of the believer. And so we who do *not* believe in eternal security realize that if the believing should stop, then the possession of eternal life would also stop, and he who was once a believer would now be an unbeliever again.

Another thing about this verse which the Calvinists overlook is the fact that the *last* half makes the same kind of *negative* promise to the unbeliever. "He who continues in unbelief shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." Therefore, if the first sentence of the verse proved eternal security (unchangeable) for anyone who is at present a believer, then the last sentence would prove eternal damnation (unchangeable) for anyone who is at present an unbeliever. But the promises to *either* group are simply dependent on whether the individual *remains* in that group.

Florida Moves Forward

LACING a promotional man on the field has been a goal of Florida Free Will Baptists for several years. This state work is small and relatively young. Some churches have existed in the northwest section of the state for many years, but it has only been in the last twenty-five years that the denomination's outreach extended to the northeast, central and southern part of the state. Several churches existed in these areas, but the real growth has been in recent years.

The 1966 session of the State Association felt the need to push forward. The Executive Committee was authorized to secure a promotional secretary to further the cause of Free Will Baptists in the state. This committee met with me in January, 1967 to discuss the state promotional work. I felt it was God's will for me to accept this work. I moved my family to Ocala, Florida and began work as Promotional Secretary on February 15, 1967. Ocala was chosen because of its central location.

The state of Florida is long and narrow. It is approximately one thousand miles from Key West, in the south, to the northwest corner. During the first nine months of service, I reported to the State Association that I had traveled 18,403 miles, visited 43 churches and attended 11 associational and quarterly meetings.

Among other responsibilities the CO-ORDINATOR is published. This monthly state paper has been a means of contact between the churches, and it has effectively lived up to its name.

This venture of faith is finding basic support from the COOPERATIVE PLAN. Churches are responding to the plan of sending ten per cent of their total income to the state and national work. Fifty per cent of the cooperative receipts are used in the state to carry on the work, while the remaining fifty per cent is sent to the National Association.

There are eighty-nine churches affiliated with the Florida State Association. The majority of these churches have less than one hundred members, yet their cooperation has enabled us to meet our obligations and do a more effective work for the Lord here in the state. We are seeing growth in all phases of our work—new churches are being organized, other

(The Rev. W. A. Hansley reviews his first year as Promotional Secretary of Florida.)



churches are being strengthened, and souls are being saved. Many pastors are working at public jobs while building churches, but these churches are growing rapidly and some are putting their pastors on full-time salaries.

When I moved to Ocala, Florida, there was a need in the city for a Free Will Baptist church for our family to attend. There had been a church there, but there were a number of problems. Another denomination was trying to get the property. The existing building was incomplete. It only had a partial roof, part of the windows, no doors and a plywood sub-floor, which was in poor condition because of rain. The State Association donated \$1,500.00, and with \$300.00 in additional contributions, the building was completed. With four class rooms, two rest rooms, and an auditorium which seats about one hundred and fifty, the church was completed and dedicated December 10, 1967. It continues to grow. The church began with seven members and at present we have a membership of forty. Sunday School attendance is also forty.

The work in Florida is before us. The challenge is tremendous with thousands moving to Florida each week. We must reach these people with the gospel. Many cities in the state do not have a Free Will Baptist church. There is a need for greater prayer effort. Should there be preachers who feel the leadership of God in this land of sunshine and opportunity, they are asked to contact Rev. W. A. Hansley, P. O. Box 1312, Ocala, Florida 32670.

It is difficult to report all the anxieties, difficulties, joys, and blessings we have experienced, but we praise the Lord for His blessings upon our work. All glory and praise belongs to Him.

OVER ONE MILLION DOLLARS

Butterfield Free Will Baptist Church
Aurora, Illinois
(\$40,000.00 Issue)
Rev. Jim Walker, Pastor

Allen's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church
Batesville, Arkansas
(\$15,000.00 Issue)
Rev. J. W. Blanks, Pastor

Ballew's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church
Grubbs, Arkansas
(\$20,000.00 Issue)
Rev. Billy Van Winkle, Pastor

First Free Will Baptist Church
McMinnville, Tennessee
(\$15,000.00 Issue)
Rev. Kenneth Kirby, Pastor

Calvary Free Will Baptist Church
Columbus, Georgia
(\$20,000.00 Issue)
Rev. Vernon Maggart, Pastor

First Free Will Baptist Church
Raleigh, N. C.
(\$75,000.00 Issue)
Rev. Billy Walker, Pastor

Mt. Holly Free Will Baptist Church
Mt. Holly, N. C.
(\$30,000.00 Issue)
Rev. Homer Arrowood, Pastor

North Lamont Church
Lamont, Calif.
(\$50,000.00 Issue)
Rev. Scifort, Pastor

First Free Will Baptist Church
Cape Girardeau, Missouri
(\$12,000.00 Issue)
Rev. Don Jones, Pastor

Fifth Ave. Free Will Baptist Church
Gastonia, N. C.
(\$15,000.00 Issue)
Rev. Billy Allen, Pastor

Issued in the past 12 months

24 Programs in 12 States



Director Francis Boyle (left) and Pastor Gene Helton express delight with the progress of Richland Church's recent bond program

Bethel Free Will Baptist Church
Gastonia, N. C.
(\$25,000.00 Issue)
Rev. J. C. Almond, Pastor

Canton Free Will Baptist Church
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IS YOUR CHURCH PLANNING TO BUILD OR REMODEL IN THE NEAR FUTURE? IF SO, WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU IN THIS BUILDING PROGRAM. WITHOUT OBLIGATION, WRITE NOW FOR FULL INFORMATION.

Francis W. Boyle, Director
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IT'S A CALL-A-THON!

APRIL 21, 1968

- Every Sunday school class in our denomination is asked to receive an offering for Foreign Missions, Sunday, April 21, 1968.
- Help clear the deficit accounts.
- Call the Department of Foreign Missions Sunday afternoon to report the total amount your Sunday school classes will mail in.
- A staff of workers will be on hand to handle all calls Sunday afternoon, April 21.

CALL 244-3470

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